29th November 1928]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) of this question, may I know whether the Government have received any further communication from the Collector regarding the sufficiency or insufficiency of the rainfall ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir. A reference has been made to the Collector."

Levy of fines by the Tahsildar on the villagers of Santhavasal for cutting stones to repair the local Hindu temple.

911 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is an ' ancient ' Hindu temple on a hillock in Santhavasal village, Polur taluk, North Arcot district, and whether the people of Santhavasal had always worshipped in and maintained the said temple ;

(*b*) whether recently when the villagers cut stones for repairing this temple the tahsildar levied fines on those who cut stones and further threatened to prosecute them ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that worshippers and trustees of Hindu temples are dealing with the properties in their charge as they want for the use and preservation of the temples ; and

(*d*) whether Government will be pleased to enquire into this interference by the tahsildar ?

A.—(*a*) to (*d*) The Government have called for a report. If the stones were quarried from Government land without permit and without payment of seigniorage, the action of the tahsildar would be correct.

Assessment of coconut topes standing in wet lands.

912 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether coconut topes standing in wet lands are charged ' wet ' assessment ;

(*b*) whether the owners of such coconut topes have to pay full assessment during seasons of water scarcity whereas ' wet ' lands get remission in times of water scarcity ;

(*c*) whether there was a wholesale drying up and loss of coconut plantations in Tiruppattur and neighbouring parts of North Arcot district during the last summer ; and

(*d*) whether Government will direct the revision of Standing Orders so as to allow remission in such cases ?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The assessment is on the land not on the crop.

(*b*) The rules governing remission are the same whatever the crop on the land may be.

(*c*) The Government are not aware whether the fact is as suggested.

(*d*) If the plantation was completely lost because of deficiency of water the land should be eligible for remission under the rules as they stand.